

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 132028Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5952

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 06543

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL DATES

REFS: TOSEC 409, TOSEC 431, SECTO 219

1. DURING COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 13, SECGEN VAN LENNEP
PRESSED FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION ON MAY 27-28 AS DATES FOR
OECD MINISTERIAL. ONLY DELEGATION OPPOSING THESE DATES
WAS IRISH, WHO POINTED TO CONFLICT BETWEEN PROPOSED IEA
MINISTERIAL AND EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED
FOR MAY 26 AND ASKED THAT DECISION BE POSTPONED UNTIL
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18). HE
SAID HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSE THAT OECD
MINISTERIAL BE HELD MAY 28-29, BUT ADDED THAT IRELAND
WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH EC PARTNERS ON SCHEDUL-
ING CONFLICT AND THAT IRISH POSITION MIGHT CHANGE AS
RESULT OF FURTHER CONSULTATION.

2. DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE AT IRISH EFFORT TO
CHANGE MINISTERIAL DATES AT THIS LATE STAGE, AND WITH-
OUT ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH SECGEN OR MINISTERIAL
CHAIRMAN (UK), VAN LENNEP POINTED OUT THAT MAY 27-28
DATES HAD ELICITED GENERAL AGREEMENT OF OECD MEMBERSHIP
PRIOR TO EC DECISION TO HOLD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
MAY 26 AND ASSERTED THAT OECD, WHICH HOLDS COUNCIL
MINISTERIAL ONLY ONCE A YEAR, SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO
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ADJUST ITS SCHEDULE TO ALLOW FOR EC FOREIGN MINISTERS

MEETINGS, WHICH ARE FAR MORE FREQUENT IN OCCURENCE. HE
POINTED OUT THAT SECOND DAY OF OECD MINISTERIAL WOULD,
ACCORDING TO IRISH PROPOSAL, COINCIDE WITH NATO MINIS-
TERIAL, A SITUATION WHICH WOULD LEAD, IN EFFECT, TO ONE-
DAY OECD MINISTERIAL, WITH NATO COUNTRY FOREIGN MINIS-
TERS MOVING ON TO BRUSSELS ON MAY 29. NO OTHER DELEGA-
TION SUPPORTED IRISH PROPOSAL, WHILE JAPAN AND AUSTRIA
ACCEPTED MAY 27-28 DATES. FRANCE SUBSEQUENTLY ACCEPTED
27 AND 28 AND NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT
HIS GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO THESE DATES AND KNEW
NOTHING OF AN EC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONSENSUS IN DUBLIN.
HAVING RECEIVED NEITHER SECTO 219 NOR RESPONSE TO
DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECRETARY CONTAINED IN
TOSEC 431 PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING, US REP DID NOT
SPEAK TO ISSUE.

3. FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING IRISH DELEGATION WAS IN-
FORMED THIS AFTERNOON BY DUBLIN OF SECRETARY'S DECISION
CONTAINED IN SECTO 409. WE REPEATED GIST OF THIS
MESSAGE TO SECRETARIAT AND TO BRITISH PERMREP, POINTING
OUT DECISION ON NEW SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO IEA AND OECD
CONFIRMATION. VAN LENNEP, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO FEEL
STRONGLY THAT IRISH SCENARIO IS MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR
OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN THIS HE WILL BE
SUPPORTED BY SOME IF NOT MOST HEADS OF DEL. VAN LENNEP
AND KEY HEADS OF DEL ARE AWARE THAT SECRETARY PLANS TO
SPEND ONLY ONE DAY AT OECD MINISTERIAL. THEY ARE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OECD PARIS 06543

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CONCERNED PRIMARILY THAT IRISH SCENARIO WOULD FORCE ALL
NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE ABSENT. SINCE IT NOW SEEMS
LIKELY THAT FINANCE MINISTERS WILL NOT ATTEND OECD
MEETINGS BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING OF THEIR MEETINGS LATER
IN JUNE, THIS WOULD VIRTUALLY ENSURE THAT THE SECOND
DAY OF THE MEETING WOULD BE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL.
VAN LENNEP IS THEREFORE LOBBYING WITH EC HEADS OF DEL
URGING THAT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING BE HELD ON
ANOTHER DATE.

4. BALL IS NOW IN EC COURT. HOWEVER WE THINK IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL FOR US TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY US POSITION IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ALONG LINES OF DEPARTMENT'S
RECOMMENDATION IN TOSEC 431, NAMELY, THAT WE PREFER TO
RETAIN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED DATES IF THIS CAN BE ARRANGED
WITHOUT CONFLICTING WITH EC MINISTERIAL CALENDAR BUT,
IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT
MAY 28-29 DATES PROPOSED BY IRISH.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO
SECRETARY'S PARTY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP06543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750088-0771
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750354/aaaabwnu.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 TOSEC 409, 75 TOSEC 431, 75 SECTO 219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD MINISTERIAL DATES
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006